



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Secretary Office of Government and Legislative Affairs

45 Calvert Street, Suite B7A-C, Annapolis MD 21401
410-260-6070 • Fax: 410-974-2586 • www.dpscs.state.md.us

STATE OF MARYLAND

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CATHERINE KAHL
ACTING DIRECTOR

March 26, 2020

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
121 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill (SB) 192— Budget Reconciliation and Financing
Act of 2020 — **OPPOSITION TO DLS RECOMMENDED CUTS**

Dear Chairman Guzzone & Members of the Senate Budget &
Taxation Committee –

The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Department) strongly opposes the budget cuts recommended by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) of 2020. Specifically, DLS is recommending cutting \$18 million from the Department's fiscal year 2020 budget. This recommended action would jeopardize public safety in the State of Maryland.

DLS has historically testified and emphasized that the Department is chronically underfunded. Yet DLS is recommending cutting \$18 million from the current fiscal year (FY). Not only does the Department disagree with this recommended action in principle, but it also disagrees with the justification for the recommended budget cut. After accounting for adjustments, the Department will only have a \$4.4 million surplus which is needed to cover salary shortfalls related to inadequate special and federal funding.

This recommended action would have a drastic and negative impact to the Department's FY 2020 budget. I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Chief of Staff Rachel Sessa at (410) 260-6070 or rachel.sessa@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Secretary Robert L. Green